

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 25, 2006**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that James Fierro-Herrera and Rafael Hernandez Lozano were arraigned today before Magistrate Judge Jan M. Adler in federal court in San Diego on an indictment charging them with conspiracy to bring in illegal aliens for financial gain, bringing in aliens for financial gain, transporting illegal aliens, conspiracy to launder money and money laundering. Defendant Jose Olivas Jr., who is employed as a Border Patrol agent, is also charged in the indictment and is scheduled to be arraigned on January 30, 2007. Another defendant, Maria Del Pilar Fierro-Herrera, remains at large.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Ott, who is prosecuting the case, Jose Olivas, Jr. was previously arraigned on a criminal complaint that charged him with conspiracy to transport hundreds of undocumented aliens. According to the charging documents, Olivas knowingly functioned as a “scout” for the organization by driving his personal vehicle a few minutes ahead of the co-conspirator’s vehicles when they were transporting illegal aliens. Olivas would then call the driver of the following transport vehicle to advise him as to the operational status of San Clemente Border Patrol Checkpoint, in order to ensure

successful transport and passage of the aliens through the checkpoint. In exchange for his participation in the smuggling conspiracy, Olivas allegedly was paid in cash for each of these scouting missions.

United States Attorney Lam said, "Our efforts to end illegal immigration includes rooting out corrupt law enforcement agents who are conspiring with smugglers. Their actions taint the good work of their colleagues, who work hard to enforce our immigration laws."

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number: 07cr0163-BTM**

JOSE OLIVAS, JR.

JAMES FIERRO-HERRERA

RAFAEL HERNANDEZ LOZANO

MARIA DEL PILAR FIERRO-HERRERA

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Count 1:

Conspiracy to Bring in Illegal Aliens  
Title 18, United States Code, Section 371

Counts 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10:

Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain  
Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)

Counts 3, 6, 6, 11, 12, 13:

Transporting Illegal Aliens  
Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Count 14:

Conspiracy to Launder Money  
Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)

Count 15-19:

Money Laundering  
Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i)

## **AGENCIES**

Office of the Inspector General  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

**An indictment is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**